

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD SEEKS INCLUSION OF MILITARY VOTING PROVISION IN FINAL VOTING RIGHTS BILL

LEGISLATION WILL ENSURE 257,000 TROOPS DEPLOYED OVERSEAS
AND 1.3 MILLION PERSONNEL THE RIGHT TO VOTE DURING ELECTIONS

Washington, D.C. – Colorado U.S. Senator Wayne Allard is once again seeking support for legislation he successfully shepherded through the Senate earlier this year that would guarantee more than 257,000 troops serving overseas and more than 1.3 million uniformed men and women in the armed services their right to vote.

Allard has sent a letter to the Conference Committee working out the differences between the House and Senate versions of the Help America Vote Act of 2001/Martin Luther King, Jr. Protection of Voting Rights Act of 2002 asking that they include his military voting rights amendment in the final conference report.

“This amendment will guarantee that our military men and women are never denied their right to vote while serving our nation in uniform,” said Allard. “The U.S. Senate unanimously approved this amendment and there is overwhelming support in the U.S. House of Representatives for this measure.”

“Given the problems experienced by absentee ballots in the 2000 presidential election, ...Congress needs to take immediate, concrete actions to counter a severely weakened faith in the military absentee voting system,” wrote Allard. “As you work to strengthen the fundamental voting rights of all Americans, we are sure you can not help but be especially aware of the unique problems of our military voters as they risk their lives to guarantee those voting rights for all of us.”

Allard’s military voting amendment would do the following:

- * Prohibits a State from disqualifying a military ballot based upon lack of notarization, postmark, address or witness signature.
- * Allows military voters who are discharged and move before election day, but after the residency deadline to be able to vote.
- * Prohibits a State from disqualifying a military ballot because it is mailed too early.